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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MARYLAND RECOGNIZES "GAME CHANGING" CLEAN ENERGY INNOVATION WITH OVER \$1 MILLION IN GRANTS

*Maryland Energy Administration awards \$1.1 Million in Competitive Grants to Five Clean Energy
Generation Projects*

ANNAPOLIS, MD (November 2, 2012) – Today, the Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) announced five recipients of the new "Game Changer Competitive Grant Program," a program created to provide cost-sharing grants for innovative clean energy generation technologies and market strategies in Maryland. The winning grantees embrace either a new technology or a new methodology that extends beyond existing renewable energy generation; the Game Changers seek to advance the market into uncharted territory. Winners were evaluated on the merits of their energy production, cost-effectiveness, market potential, project viability, cost share, project performance measurement and verification methodology, and project visibility. The projects are funded based on their ability to help the State meet its renewable energy portfolio standard of 20% by 2022, and the grant recipients' progress towards that goal will be evaluated for two years following their award.

"MEA strongly believes that investing in Game Changer technologies and analyzing their performance in our state is a smart investment that will yield very positive returns to Maryland families and businesses," said Abigail Ross Hopper, Acting Director of the Maryland Energy Administration. "These highly leveraged projects will help jump start innovative and commercially available technologies for the future and economic benefits for communities."

Funding for the program comes from the Strategic Energy Investment Fund, which was created from public auctions of carbon credits through the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. Game Changing technologies include large-scale biomass boilers, community wind project assessments, advanced solar thermal water heating systems and assessments, photovoltaics (PV) with advanced energy storage in micro-grid configurations, and PV/storage systems that can charge next-generation electric vehicles (EVs). Grant recipients range from greenhouses to developers working with General Motors. For more information, please see the full description of each project below.

2012 Game Changer Competitive Grant Awardees

1. Frederick County – Catoctin Mountain Growers (CMG) Greenhouse Biomass Boiler Project

An award of \$250,000 (8.3% of the total project cost of \$3,000,000) will assist CMG replace its traditional boiler fuels with clean woody biomass fuel in a clean, efficient, cost-saving biomass boiler. This boiler will be Maryland's first modern, large-scale biomass boiler project and will be the first of many other large biomass boiler projects that can take advantage of the state's 780,000 dry tons of available woody biomass.

2. Prince George's County, Anne Arundel County and Baltimore City – Skyline Innovations Multi-Family Solar Water Heating Project to Compare and Improve Efficiencies of Traditional & New Collector Technologies

An award of \$176,000 (13.2% of a total project cost of \$1,329,700) will help Skyline Innovations collect hot water consumption data and solar thermal collector performance data on three types of collectors from 6,000 multi-family housing inhabitants over the course of two years. This project will fill the void of hot water consumption and collector performance data in the state that the solar thermal industry needs to develop a thriving market. Since solar water heating is 4-5 times more efficient than solar electric energy, the new polymeric collectors used in this project will cost half as much as conventional collectors for the multi-family housing market.

3. Statewide – MD Goes Green, Division of Land and Cultural Preservation Fund, Inc. Community-Scale Wind Project Assessments to Develop Community-Scale Wind Projects

An award of \$219,200 (9.1% of a total project cost of \$2,391,050) will help create opportunities for community-scale wind projects across Maryland. Led by the non-profit organization, MD Goes Green, Division of Land and Cultural Preservation Fund, Inc., five sites will be identified, resulting in the deployment of at least 850 kW of new community-scale wind generation within the next five years. The experiences of these sites will provide guidance for other communities to deploy wind energy generation throughout the state.

4. Frederick and Baltimore Counties – TimberRock Energy Solutions with General Motors (GM) Development of A Solar PV/Energy Storage/Electric Vehicle Charging System

An award of \$170,118 (46% of a total project cost of \$365,481) will aid TimberRock Energy Solutions to install an electric vehicle (EV) charging system that collects and stores solar energy. The system will be located at GM's White Marsh electric vehicle motor plant. It is the first integrated configuration that enables solar energy to power a local building, an EV, as well as the power grid. This ground breaking project will demonstrate the viability of electricity as a transportation fuel and renewable energy to create that power.

5. Montgomery and Prince George's Counties – Standard Solar Installed Solar Energy Microgrid at the Konterra Mixed-Used Development

An award of \$250,000 (12.4% of a total project cost of \$2,007,000) will implement a 320-kW solar PV array and lithium ion battery storage system at a mixed-use development that will allow solar energy to flow after a power outage, thus creating the first solar powered microgrid in Maryland. The highly-visible project located at the intersection of I-95 and the Intercounty Connector will feature billboard-sized monitors visible from nearby highways that show motorists how much solar energy is being generated at any given time even during power outages.

For more information on the Game Changer Competitive Grant Program, visit
<http://energy.maryland.gov/Business/gamechanger/index.html>.

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The Maryland Energy Administration's (MEA) mission is to assist Maryland citizens and businesses to save money through smart investments in energy efficiency, renewable energy and conservation. A Maryland state agency, MEA fuels the creation of green jobs by providing funds and resources to expand the use and availability of clean, safe energy in Maryland.